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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Gul: I may visit the U.S. - Sabah
NIE report shows Bush might have lied - Hurriyet
U.S. planning a regular Iraqi army of 40,000 - Aksam
Saddam letter to U.S. outlines surrender conditions - Sabah
'Iron Horse' chasing Saddam - Milliyet
Israel admits assassination attempt on Arafat - Sabah
EU leaders: Turkey might become EU's trump card on Mideast -
Milliyet
German envoy: Turkey's place is in Europe - Hurriyet
Erdogan: Unilateral goodwill moves not enough in Cyprus -
Turkiye
Turkey to cut troops by 90,000 - Vatan

OPINION MAKERS

Invaders depressed: U.S. troops want to go home - Cumhuriyet
Pipeline wars in Iraq - Yeni Safak
WT: Time to kiss-and-make up with Turkey - Cumhuriyet
Tehran bans student demonstrations - Radikal
Belgium obeys U.S. - Zaman
Putin silences last dissident broadcaster - Radikal
 Hamas leader: No peace under occupation - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Gul might visit U.S. in July: On his return from the WEF
meetings in Jordan, Foreign Minister Gul said that he would
soon pay an official visit to the U.S. Dailies report that
the date of the visit would be set according to the schedule
of Secretary Powell. Papers also note that the foreign
ministers of Greece and Palestine, and the King of Jordan
would visit Turkey soon.

Turkey to join Iraqi reconstruction: Ankara is being invited
to a meeting on the reconstruction of Iraq in New York next
week, papers say. A delegation from Iraq will also attend
the meeting.

EU officials warmer to Turkey: "Milliyet" reports a
'changing' attitude of EU member countries regarding
Turkey's position vis--vis Europe, saying that EU leaders
began viewing Turkey as a trump card in their relations with
the Middle East. The EU's foreign policy chief Javier
Solana said at the WEF meetings in Jordan that full
membership of Turkey to the Union would make Europe a
neighbor to the Middle East. German Foreign Minister
Fischer said Turkey's EU membership was crucial for peace
and stability in the region.
National Program out for discussion: MFA officials have
briefed on Monday the cabinet on the 977-page National
Program for Turkey's EU drive, papers report. Government
Spokesman Cicek said the draft would be discussed with the
opposition party CHP, and with some NGOs like Turkey's
businessmen's association TUSIAD as well.

Prosecutor to file lawsuit against Uzan: Following a
complaint by Prime Minister Erdogan's lawyers on grounds of
insult and libel, the prosecutor's office has initiated an
investigation into Genc Party leader Cem Uzan's remarks

against Erdogan. The investigation might lead the prosecutor to demand up to three years prison sentence for Uzan, papers say. If convicted, Uzan will be banned from politics.

Parliamentary investigation against former politicians: A parliamentary commission against corruption has demanded investigation against a number of certain political figures for corruption and graft, reports say. A former prime minister and ex-ANAP chairman Mesut Yilmaz is accused of irregularities in the Blue Stream natural gas agreement with Russia, and in construction of the Black Sea motorway. Former cabinet ministers Husamettin Ozkan (DSP), Gunes Taner (ANAP), Cumhur Ersumer (ANAP), and Koray Aydin (MHP) are also under investigation on claims of corruption regarding energy, construction, and privatization contracts, reports note.

EU funds for SE Turkey: EU's Turkey representation has announced on Monday a decision to provide 500 million Euro aid annually for the Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP) until 2006, papers report. EU representative Hans Jorg Kretschner said special efforts are needed for implementation of EU reforms, and noted that EU funds would be spent for education and, social and cultural projects in southeast Turkey.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iran / Iraq

"Iran"

Ozgen Acar observed in social democrat-intellectual Cumhuriyet (6/24): "It is interesting to see some comments calling for the US to intervene in Iran as they did in Iraq. The regime in Iran is not only an enemy to Turkey and its secular system, but also it is hostile to democracy. Yet I would not sympathize with 'the US should intervene in Iran' rationale. . It is a well-known fact that at least during the last 10 years Iran has been working on a nuclear weapons development program. Dictatorships such as Iran may use nuclear weapons unexpectedly and this possibility itself is a great threat to Turkey. . However, the motives behind the nuclear armament should also be inquired into. Iran's nuclear weapons development began with the need to establish a defense or offense when necessary against Israel, which has nuclear weapons as well. What is the reason for the IAEA not doing a nuclear arms inspection in Israel?"

"Lies and mistakes"

Zafer Atay wrote in the economic-political Dunya (6/24): "Things are becoming a mess for the Bush administration because of the way it seems the Hawks have built their Iraq policy on lies and mistakes. . It seems very unlikely that the American forces in Iraq will be able to find any weapons of mass destruction. All over the indications lead us to the fact that the Saddam regime actually destroyed its WMD prior to the UN inspection. . The US administration has made another mistake by convincing itself that it is seen as the savior of Iraq. And the ongoing instability as well as social disorder seems to be creating a very painful period for the US administration. It remains to be seen what other consequences will occur after carrying out a policy filled with lies and mistakes."

PEARSON